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which it was designed, but it can scarcely be regarded as an original contribution to the economic history of the United States.

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*The Public Domain and Democracy.* By ROBERT TUDOR HILL.  
(New York: The Columbia University Press. 1910. Pp. 253.)

This monograph is little else than a composite reflection of the characteristic works of Professors Turner, Giddings and Merriam in their respective fields of history, sociology and politics, in so far as they pertain to social institutions coincident with the occupation of western America. As an interpretation of the United States census, Donaldson's *Public Domain* and recent official and semi-official reports concerning natural resources, in the light of the teachings of the above named men, Dr. Hill's work is of commendable interest and value. Many pages are devoted to a review of the context of the land laws, as detailed by Donaldson and Sato, and to an exemplification of the conflict between public policy and frontier individualism by the enumeration of alleged trespass upon the public domain and misappropriation of natural resources. But nowhere appears a statement of the proprietorship attributes of the public domain, of the theory of the settlement laws, or of the methods and motives of extra-legal appropriation of public lands and circumvention of the spirit and intent of the statutes. Nor is there reference to the extraordinary institutional aspects of irrigation and mining activities on the public domain and their relation to subsequent democratic ideals.

Dr. Hill's own conception of "democracy" is evasive. De Tocqueville, Bryce, Merriam and Giddings are indiscriminately quoted in definition and with apparent approval. "Ideals of Democracy" are frequently alluded to in a casual manner, and the reader is informed that "democracy is a dynamic ideal" (p. 128); but one seeks in vain for an exposition of the consecutive reconstruction or the evolutionary order of democratic ideals in America.

RALPH H. HESS.

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*British Credit in the Last Napoleonic War.* By AUDREY CUNNINGHAM (B.A., Trinity College, Dublin; of Girton College,

Cambridge). With an appendix containing a reprint of *Des Finances de L'Angleterre*. By H. LASALLE. Girton College Studies, No. 2. (Cambridge: University Press. 1910.)

Miss Cunningham's essay is an ingenious attempt to prove that Napoleon's Continental System, instead of having been, as is ordinarily supposed, a series of blind attacks upon British commerce, was, much more specifically, an assault upon England's gold reserve designed to overthrow the whole fabric of national credit. The evidence marshalled to support this hypothesis consists of (a) D'Hauterive's *De l'état de la France* (1800) and Lasalle's *Des finances de l'Angleterre* (1803; reprinted as an appendix to the present essay)—contemporary pamphlets, which probably did not influence Napoleon, but are of significance as showing that "well-informed Frenchmen at the time considered the situation of Great Britain such that a deliberate attack upon her credit might be expected to be successful"; (b) the writings of Chevalier de Guer, notably his *Essai sur le crédit commercial* (1801), with the contentions of which as to the dependence of British power upon the Bank's store of gold, Napoleon was certainly acquainted and indeed in sympathy; and (c) the common discussion in England as in France of an attack on British credit as an available weapon of warfare. Other considerations figure in Miss Cunningham's argument, but the case rests essentially upon the foregoing.

Obviously here is occasion for a sharp distinction between that testimony which is relevant and that which is not. The point turns, for example, not upon whether De Guer's theories were sound; but upon whether Napoleon deemed them so. Considered as a positive doctrine the gold-assault theory might have been—as to the present reviewer seems emphatically the case—the flimsiest of economic fallacies, and yet it might very possibly have inspired in Napoleon's mind a momentous course of action. It would be too much to say that Miss Cunningham had definitely established her thesis; from the nature of things the verdict could not in any event be more than a reasonable degree of probability. But future students of the Napoleonic contest are not likely to neglect the material brought into new prominence, nor the skillful, if not absolutely convincing, use made of it.

Here and there Miss Cunningham lapses from a purely judicial attitude into quasi-agreement with the doctrines whose influence is being determined. The closing paragraphs point a moral in

quite a boy-scout spirit. Tooke and Doubleday can hardly replace an independent study of the early bullion literature. The parliamentary debates upon the Restriction renewal bills are not to be neglected in estimating the state of the public mind as to a French attack upon British credit, and Herries's *Memoir* (1880) would probably have induced the omission of Napier's wonderful story of Wellington's recruit counterfeiters; and also, as I have elsewhere suggested, explained why the new efficiency of private finance made it possible for England, from the time of the Peninsular War, to pay troops in the field and discharge foreign subventions through the medium of foreign exchange, regardless of gold reserves.

But these are the elements which will doubtless figure in the larger study which it is to be hoped Miss Cunningham will some day give us of Napoleon's economics. In its present form the essay is a neat, workman-like performance that brings distinction to its author and credit to its sponsors.

JACOB H. HOLLANDER.

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*Les Cahiers de 1789 et les Classes Ouvrières.* By ROGER PICARD, Librairie des Sciences Politiques et Sociales. (Paris: Marcel Rivière et Cie. 1910. Pp. 271. 6 fr.)

M. Picard presents three valuable contributions to the study of the period which culminated in the Revolution. By carefully limiting his study to the economic and social conditions of the working classes as revealed by the cahiers; by making a most comprehensive and exhaustive study of the cahiers and contemporary sources; and by submitting the cahiers to a discriminating literary and historical criticism, he has succeeded in constructing a valuable handbook to the student of economic history and theory, a reliable guide through the voluminous literature of the eighteenth century, and a very readable book for the general student of human progress. The classified bibliography is a valuable addition. More than 150 sources, alphabetically arranged, are cited, and an equal number of references are given. An examination of most of the citations proves them to be accurate and uncommonly helpful.

Besides the foreword and bibliography, the monograph is in eleven chapters. In the first, the origin of the cahiers is given in sufficient detail to establish the basis for discovering and disclosing